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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/975,626 | VAN DER SCHAAR ET AL. |
| | Examiner Vu Le | Art Unit 2613 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to _____.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-46.
3. The drawings filed on 2-4-02 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 9-27-04.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Russell Gross, on September 27, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

On page 1, paragraph [0002]:

Line 2, "09/930,672" has been filled in the blank;

Line 3, "August 15, 2001" has been filled in the blank;

Line 4, "09/887,743" has been filled in the blank;

Line 5, "June 21, 2001" and "09/887,756" have been filled in the two blanks in their respective order;

Line 6, "June 21, 2001" has been filled in the blank.

On page 2, paragraph [0004] :

Line 3, "09/347,882" has been filled in the blank;

Line 4, "July 6, 1999" has been filled in the blank;

Line 6, "09/590,825" has been filled in the blank;

Line 7, "June 9, 2000" has been filled in the blank.

On page 5, paragraph [0022]:

Line 3, "application" has been change to plural "applications"; "Serial Number _____" has been deleted;

Line 7, "application" has been change to plural "applications"; "Serial Number _____" has been deleted.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-46 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

All claims stand and fall together. Claim 1 is selected as representative of the rest. In claim 1, the requirement is specific, in that, quality enhanced residual images are generated from downscaled input image frames and base layer frames, wherein base layer frames are derived from encoding downscaled input image frames. Furthermore, the generated enhanced residual images are then encoded using fine granular coding technique, which by definition involves spatial scalability of the input images and bit-plane coding. The prior art of record do not fairly teach or anticipate the above as claimed. They do teach however, fine granularity coding, but the manner in which enhancement frames are generated as claimed is not taught.

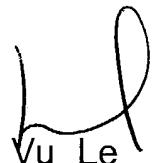
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vu Le whose telephone number is 703-308-6613. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on 703-305-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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